

Message Text

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22

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:SFPATRICK/EWLOLLIS/MPH

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

AF:EWMULCAHY

E:DHWOOD (PHONE)

NSC:HHORAN

S/S:O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO GENERAL OBASANJO

1. FOLLOWING LETTER SIGNED FEBRUARY 19 BY PRESIDENT FORD WAS TO HAVE BEEN HAND-CARRIED TO LAGOS AND PRESENTED IN PERSON BY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON (INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU WERE IN PREPARATION BUT COULD NOT BE SENT UNTIL PRESIDENT ACTUALLY SIGNED LETTER):

QUOTE: DEAR GENERAL OBASANJO:

I CONVEY TO YOU MY BEST WISHES, AND THOSE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, FOR SUCCESS IN THE POSITION TO WHICH YOU HAVE JUST BEEN CALLED. THE UNITED STATES VALUES ITS TIES WITH NIGERIA AND THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE. GIVEN OUR MANY MUTUAL INTERESTS, I AM SURE THAT OUR RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW STRONGER. I LOOK FORWARD TO EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH YOU ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO
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US BOTH. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT PROPOSES THAT YOU SEEK AUDIENCE WITH HEAD OF STATE AND DELIVER COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WITH APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION OF REGRET THAT UNDER SECRETARY WAS NOT ABLE TO DELIVER ORIGINAL IN PERSON. DEPARTMENT

WOULD DELIVER ORIGINAL TO NIGERIAN EMBASSY ON SAME DAY THAT YOU SEE OBASANJO, OR ALTERNATIVELY FORWARD IT TO YOU FOR DELIVERY TO FMG.

3. ADVISE SOONEST YOUR REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL, BUT TAKE NO ACTION WITHOUT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: LAGOS
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